

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached Replacement Sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3, and replaces the corresponding original sheet. In amended Fig. 3, a legend has been added to indicate that Fig. 3 illustrates that which is prior art.

Attachments:

Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet showing change

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 22, 2006. Claims 30-37 are presented for examination, of which Claims 30 and 34 are in independent form. Claims 1-5, 8-12 and 17 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 30-37 have been amended to define Applicant's invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

In response to the objection to Fig. 3, Applicants submit herewith a replacement drawing sheet in which a legend has been added to indicate that Fig. 3 is labeled as prior art.

Claim 5 was objected to in the Office Action. Cancellation of Claim 5 renders this objection moot.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 5, 8-10, 12, 17, 30, 31, 34 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,442,349 (Saegusa, et al.). In addition, Claims 3, 32, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from *Saegusa* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,827,347 (Bell); and Claims 4, 11, 33, and 37, as being obvious from *Saegusa* in view of "IEEE 1394: A Ubiquitous Bus" ("IEEE 1394"). Cancellation of Claims 1-5, 8-12 and 17 renders their rejections moot. Applicants submit that independent Claims 30 and 34, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 30 is directed to a method of controlling a data communication apparatus. The method as claimed comprises controlling the data communication apparatus to send image data selected by a user to a printer via a serial bus, if a send instruction is entered into the data communication apparatus. The data communication apparatus is controlled to start inhibiting, invalidating or ignoring a predetermined user

instruction if the send instruction is entered into the data communication apparatus, and the apparatus is further controlled to stop the inhibiting, invalidating or ignoring of the predetermined user instruction if the printer notifies the data communication apparatus that the image data selected by the user is printed.

Among other notable features of the method of Claim 30 are the steps of (i) controlling the data communication apparatus so as to start inhibiting, invalidating or ignoring a predetermined user instruction if the send instruction is entered into the data communication apparatus, and (ii) controlling the data communication apparatus so as to stop the inhibiting, invalidating or ignoring if the printer notifies the data communication apparatus that the image data selected by the user is printed.

Saegusa relates to a camera having a function to store photographic data within photographing data memory means that are part of the camera. When the internal memory of the digital camera is exceeded, a user will be warned via an alarm or will be prevented from storing more data on the digital camera. That is, in *Saegusa*, data communication to the internal memory is apparently halted to prevent the adding of further data when the internal memory capacity is used up. *Saegusa* permits a user to reset the alarm. In addition, as Applicants understand *Saegusa*, data can be transferred from the camera to an electronic organizer.

Nothing has been found in *Saegusa* that is believed to teach or suggest a method of controlling a data communication apparatus that includes (i) controlling the data communication apparatus so as to start inhibiting, invalidating or ignoring a predetermined user instruction if a send instruction is entered into the data communication apparatus, and (ii) controlling the data communication apparatus so as to stop the inhibiting, invalidating or ignoring if a printer notifies the data communication apparatus that the image data selected by the user is printed.

In the method of Claim 30, the image data selected by a user is sent from the data communication apparatus and a printer. Unlike the apparatus described in *Saegusa*, in the method of Claim 30, the data communication device is controlled to inhibit, invalidate, or ignore a predetermined user instruction if the send instruction is entered into the data communication apparatus. The inhibiting, invalidating, and ignoring of the user instruction stops when the printer notifies the data communication apparatus that the image data selected by the user is printed.

The inhibition allegedly taught in *Saegusa* prevents a user from taking more pictures when communication to the internal memory of the camera ceases if the internal memory is full. In the method of Claim 30 user commands are inhibited, invalidated, or ignored, not in response to data storage locally on the data communication device (as is apparently the case in *Saegusa*), but based on a send instruction, and also on whether a printer notifies the data communication apparatus that the image data selected by the user is printed. In Applicants' view, nothing found in *Saegusa* would teach or suggest the features of Claim 30 when data transfer takes place between devices, even from the camera to the electronic organizer.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 30 is allowable over *Saegusa*.

Independent Claim 34 is an apparatus claim that recites, among other features, control means that perform the mentioned controlling steps recited in Claim 30. Therefore, that claim is also believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above.

The rejected claims in this application depend from one or the other of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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